

Amendments to the Claims

Please amend claims 42, 45-47, 49, 51-53, 55, 57, 59-61, 63, 65-67, 69, 72, 73, 75-80.
Please cancel claims 41, 43, 44, 56, 58, 68, 70, 71. Please add new claims 81-86. The Listing of Claims below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-40. (cancelled)

41. (Canceled)

42. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 81, wherein said workflow packet includes a process state.

43. (Canceled)

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 81, wherein at least one of said plurality of activity servers performs more than one of said plurality of activities.

46. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 81, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is an automatic activity.

47. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 81, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is a manual activity for receiving a user input.
48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 47, wherein said manual activity manages a user interface.
49. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 81, wherein more than one of said plurality of activities is a manual activity and ~~wherein~~ said more than one of said plurality of activities are aggregated in one of said plurality of activity servers.
50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 49, wherein said one of said plurality of activity servers interfaces with a desktop server for providing a user interface to a user.
51. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 81, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is performed by more than one of said plurality of activity servers.
52. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 81, further comprising the steps of:
receiving an event notification requesting that said workflow be processed; and
initiating said workflow in response to the event notification.
53. (Currently amended) The method of claim ~~[[41]]~~ 81, wherein said workflow transition information includes a routing transition.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 53, further comprising the step of:
performing more than one of said plurality of activities and more than one routing transition in a single transaction in one of said plurality of activity servers.

55. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[41]] 81, wherein said workflow transition information includes a route number, a node number, a routing transition and a next node number.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[56]] 83, wherein said workflow packet includes a process state.

58. (Canceled)

59. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[56]] 83, wherein at least one of said plurality of activity servers performs more than one of said plurality of activities.

60. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[56]] 83, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is an automatic activity.

61. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[56]] 83, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is a manual activity for receiving an input from a user.

62. (Previously presented) The system of claim 61, wherein said manual activity manages a user interface.

63. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[56]] 83, wherein more than one of said plurality of activities is a manual activity and ~~wherein~~ said more than one of said plurality of activities are aggregated in one of said plurality of activity servers.

64. (Previously presented) The system of claim 63, wherein said one of said plurality of activity servers interfaces with a desktop server for providing a user interface to a user.

65. (Currently amended) The method of claim [[56]] 83, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is performed by more than one of said plurality of activity servers.

66. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[56]] 83, further comprising an event receiver, said event receiver receiving an event notification for initiating said workflow.

67. (Currently amended) The system of claim [[56]] 83, wherein said workflow transition information includes a route number, a node number, a routing transition and a next node number.

68. (Canceled)

69. (Currently amended) The program code of claim [[68]] 85, wherein said workflow packet includes a process state.

70. (Canceled)

71. (Canceled)

72. (Currently amended) The program code of claim [[68]] 85, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is an automatic activity.

73. (Currently amended) The program code of claim [[68]] 85, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is a manual activity for receiving a user input.

74. (Previously presented) The program code of claim 73, wherein said manual activity manages a user interface.

75. (Currently amended) The program code of claim [[68]] 85, wherein more than one of said plurality of activities is a manual activity and ~~wherein~~ said more than one of said plurality of activities are aggregated in one of said plurality of activity servers.

76. (Currently amended) The program code of claim [[68]] 85, wherein at least one of said plurality of activities is performed by more than one of said plurality of activity servers.

77. (Currently amended) The program code of claim [[68]] 85, further comprising ~~the steps of instructions to:~~

~~receiving~~ receive an event notification requesting that said workflow be processed; and
~~initiating~~ initiate said workflow in response to the event notification.

78. (Currently amended) The program code of claim [[68]] 85, wherein said workflow transition information includes a routing transition.

79. (Currently amended) The program code of claim 78, further comprising ~~the step of instructions to:~~

~~performing~~ perform more than one of said plurality of activities and more than one routing transition in a single transaction in one of said plurality of activity servers.

80. (Currently amended) The program code of claim [[68]] 85, wherein said workflow transition information includes a route number, a node number, a routing transition and a next node number.

81. (New) An automated method for processing a workflow among a plurality of activity servers, the method comprising, at each activity server among the plurality of activity servers, the steps of:

obtaining workflow transition information from a common database, the workflow transition information defining a sequence of a plurality of activities for a workflow;

retrieving a workflow packet from a workflow queue maintained in the common database, the workflow packet corresponding to an activity defined in the sequence of activities for the workflow;

performing the activity corresponding to the retrieved workflow packet;

determining a next activity in the sequence of activities for the workflow from the workflow transition information;

wherein the next activity is capable of being performed by the activity server, performing the next activity without requesting a next workflow packet from the workflow queue.

82. (New) The method of claim 81 wherein the next activity is incapable of being performed by the activity server, the method further comprising:

forming at the activity server the next workflow packet corresponding to the next activity; and

forwarding the next workflow packet to the workflow queue for retrieval by another activity server capable of performing the next activity.

83. (New) An automated system for processing a workflow comprising:

a plurality of activity servers obtaining workflow transition information from a common database, the workflow transition information defining a sequence of a plurality of activities for a workflow;

each of the plurality of activity servers executing instructions to:

retrieve a workflow packet from a workflow queue maintained in the common database, the workflow packet corresponding to an activity defined in the sequence of activities for the workflow;

perform the activity corresponding to the retrieved workflow packet;

determine a next activity in the sequence of activities for the workflow from the workflow transition information;

wherein the next activity is capable of being performed by the activity server, performing the next activity without requesting a next workflow packet from the workflow queue.

84. (New) The system of claim 83 wherein the next activity is incapable of being performed by the activity server, the activity server forms the next workflow packet corresponding to the next activity and forwards the next workflow packet to the workflow queue for retrieval by another activity server capable of performing the next activity.

85. (New) Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium for processing a workflow by a plurality of activity servers, the program code comprising instructions being operable to cause each of the plurality of activity servers to:

obtain workflow transition information from a common database, the workflow transition information defining a sequence of a plurality of activities for a workflow;

retrieve a workflow packet from a workflow queue maintained in the common database, the workflow packet corresponding to an activity defined in the sequence of activities for the workflow;

perform the activity corresponding to the retrieved workflow packet;
determine a next activity in the sequence of activities for the workflow from the workflow transition information;
wherein the next activity is capable of being performed by the activity server, perform the next activity without requesting a next workflow packet from the workflow queue.

86. (New) The program code of claim 85, wherein the next activity is incapable of being performed by the activity server, the program code comprising instructions being operable to cause the activity server to:

form the next workflow packet corresponding to the next activity; and
forwarding the next workflow packet to the workflow queue for retrieval by another activity server capable of performing the next activity.